Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries

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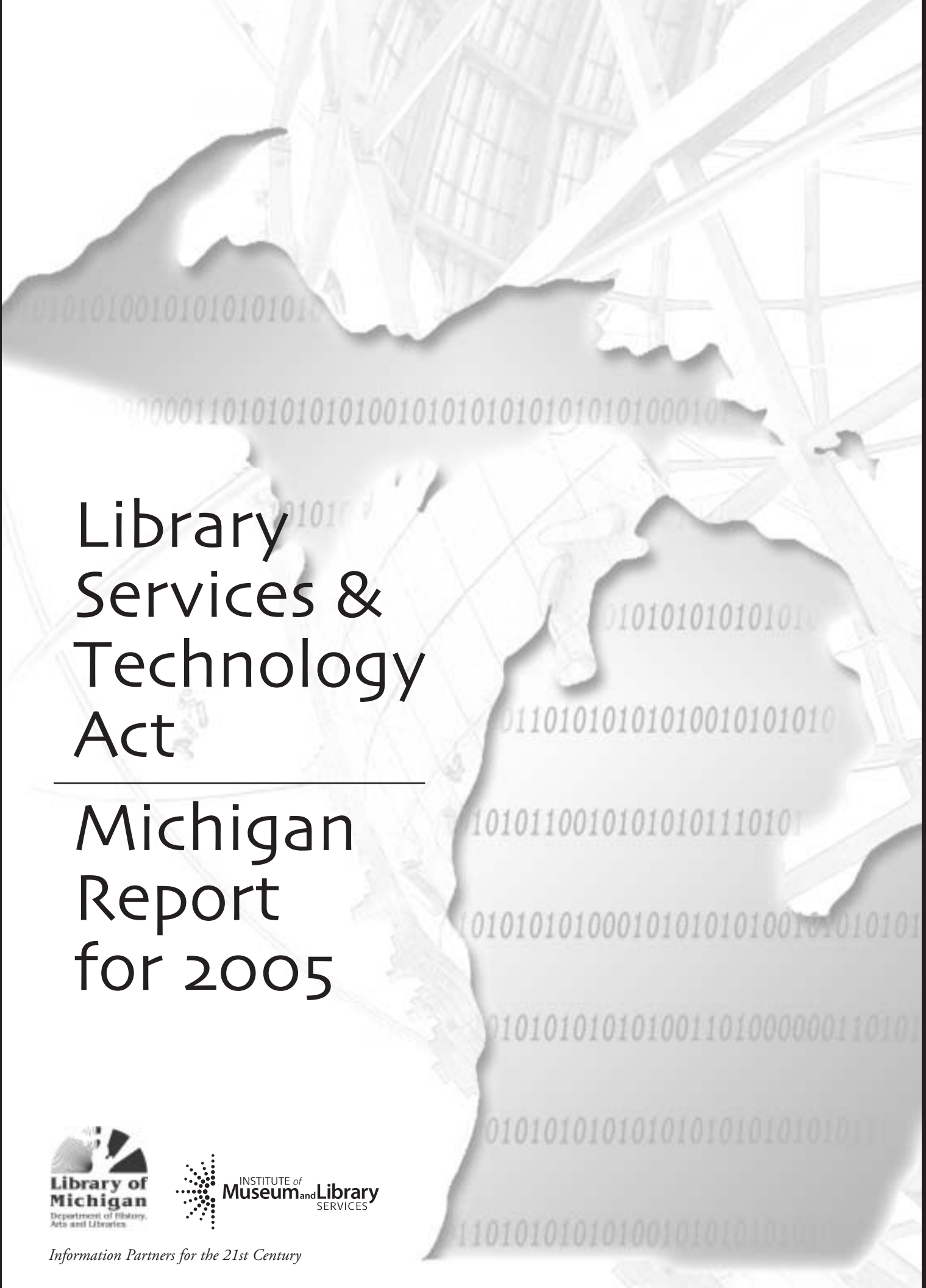
The Library of Michigan is part of the Department of History, Arts and Libraries. Dedicated to strengthening the economy and enriching the quality of life for Michigan residents by providing access to information, preserving and promoting Michigan's heritage and fostering cultural creativity, the department also includes the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, the Michigan Film Office and the Michigan Historical Center.



Library Services & Technology Act

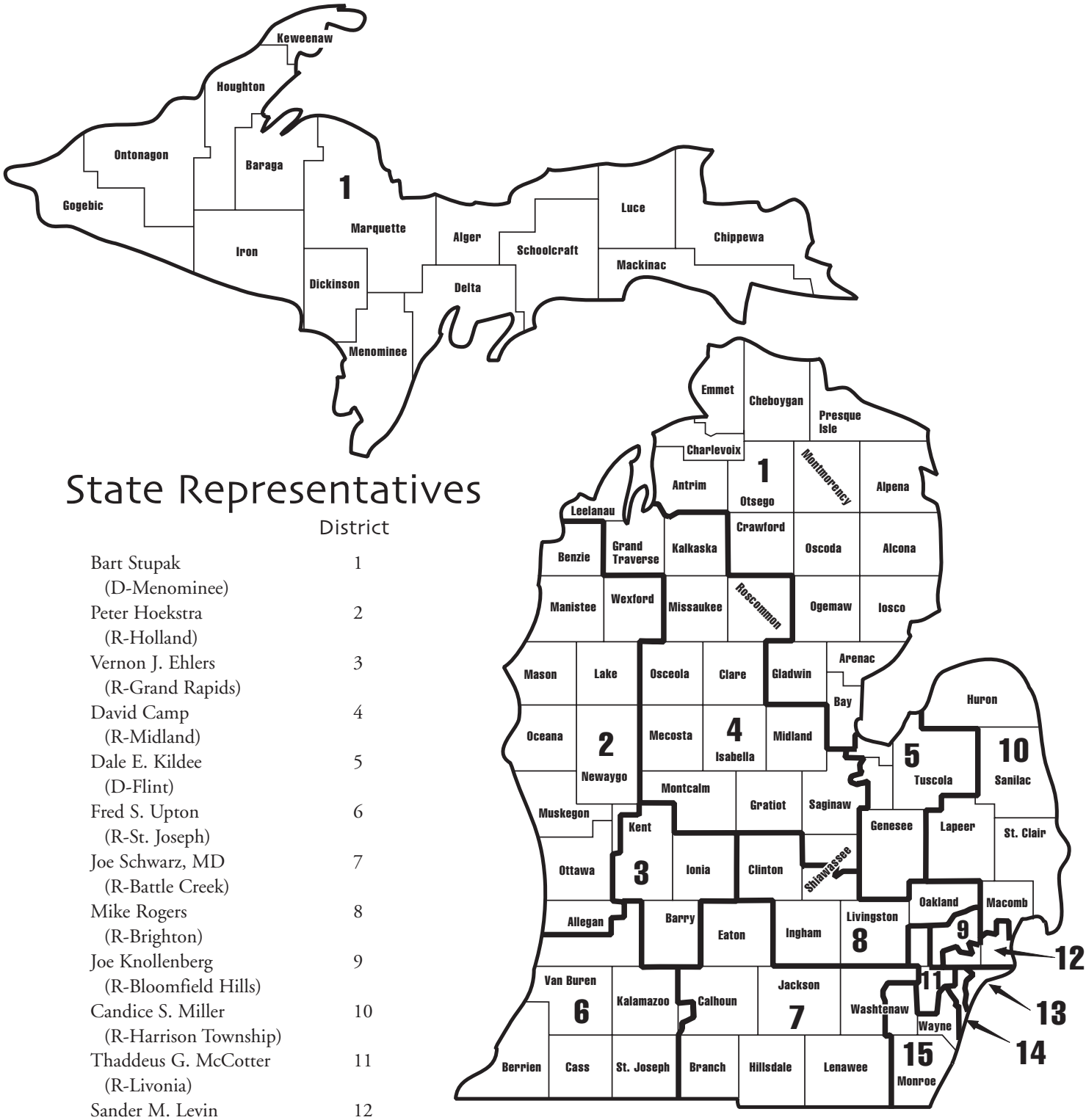
Michigan Report for 2005

Library of Michigan
Department of History, Arts and Libraries

INSTITUTE of Museum and Library SERVICES

Information Partners for the 21st Century

U.S. Congressional Districts



State Representatives

	District
Bart Stupak (D-Menominee)	1
Peter Hoekstra (R-Holland)	2
Vernon J. Ehlers (R-Grand Rapids)	3
David Camp (R-Midland)	4
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Carolyn C. Kilpatrick (D-Detroit)	13
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John D. Dingell (D-Dearborn)	15

United States Senators

Carl Levin (D-Detroit)

Debbie Stabenow (D-Lansing)

Library Services & Technology Act

Michigan Report for 2005

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Library Services & Technology Act Report for 2005

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May 2006

Dear Members of Congress:

Libraries are a cornerstone of robust communities, providing opportunities for education, lifelong learning, local business support, entertainment and a community meeting place. Library services profoundly impact job seekers learning new skills; children and adults improving literacy skills; business owners finding economic data; and people needing a place to experience new technologies.

The primary goals of public libraries in America are to provide service, materials and, above all, access to knowledge for residents from all walks of life. Communities and democracy grow and thrive when citizens have free and open access to the information necessary to improve their lives and have the opportunity to meet others doing the same.

Thank you for your continuing support of Michigan communities and their libraries through the funding and reauthorization of the federal Museum and Library Services Act. Your support gives Michigan libraries the opportunity to provide a wide range of materials, skills and experiences to all residents of Michigan.

Regards,

Nancy R. Robertson
State Librarian

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Library of Michigan's Mission

The Library of Michigan promotes, advocates and consistently works to achieve the highest level of library service to the State of Michigan, its government, its libraries and its residents.

Library of Michigan's LSTA Program Goals for Michigan

Goal I: Provide all Michigan residents statewide access to the widest possible range of information, library resources and services to advance and enhance their lives as workers, students, citizens, family members and lifelong learners.

Goal II: Increase equity of information access and library service by providing special assistance to areas of the state where library services are inadequate (underserved rural and urban communities), and to libraries that are working to provide service to persons having difficulty using a library.

Goal III: Foster innovation and technical improvements in information services by funding leading-edge projects in libraries that meet and anticipate constantly changing needs for library services and information needs of Michigan's residents.

In 2005, Michigan's $5,059,705 in LSTA funding was allocated to several statewide projects: the Michigan eLibrary ("MeL") collections; expansion and development of MeLCat, a statewide catalog, interlibrary loan and delivery service; and enhancement to MeL's search capabilities. These projects provide a wealth of digital resources available to all Michigan residents at any time, in any place. In addition, LSTA funds supported collaborative digitization, local reading improvement programs, the development of quality service standards for public libraries, and training to improve services to children, youth and the disabled.

MeL (Michigan eLibrary)

Mission: "Michigan's virtual library, MeL, will link all Michigan residents to the information they need, where they need it, and in the format they desire."

The Michigan eLibrary (MeL) is the focus of the Library of Michigan's statewide LSTA program. MeL is a core set of "anytime, anywhere" accessible resources available to all Michigan residents. Michigan libraries are committed to providing quality information access for all residents of the state. MeL provides Michigan citizens with comprehensive topical information ranging from automobiles to zoos! Resources including full-text subscription materials, a statewide library catalog and a Michigan-focused Internet directory are all available through the MeL portal at http://mel.org. Michigan residents actively use this collection to enhance and enrich their lives as professionals, job seekers, students, hobbyists and lifelong learners.

MeL's phenomenal growth has continued in 2005 with more than 16.2 million searches and 5.8 million articles downloaded from the subscription databases. While MeL's free resources are available to all, subscription resources are available to Michigan residents only.
MeL subscriptions include full-text journal and magazine articles, electronic books, practice tests, K-12 curriculum materials and indexes to non-electronic articles and books. Residents may access these at Michigan public libraries or may log in from school or home by using a Michigan driver's license, state ID or library card number.

The contracts for MeL databases totaled $3,740,390 for 2005. The LSTA funding for this access saved Michigan's public libraries, K-12 schools and universities and colleges a minimum of $176,452,349, which is a 97.9% cost savings. This is a low estimate based only on access for public libraries, K-12 schools and higher education to databases appropriate for their users. It does not include costs for access to all databases by all libraries or access for individual Michigan residents in their homes, which MeL provides.

MeL includes the following components:

MeL Internet — "Best of the Internet"- a balanced collection of Internet sites selected by librarians for quality that are Michigan related or particularly useful to Michigan residents;

MeL Databases — Subscription resources, including databases of magazine and journal articles, reference works and other full-text content from OCLC, ProQuest, Thomson Gale and others;

MeL eBooks — An eBook collection of over 20,000 non-fiction and reference books on all topics, and public domain titles from netLibrary;

MeL Practice Tests — Online tests, including college entrance, civil service and vocational exams, and K-12 study guides from LearnATest;

MeLCat — Books and other materials from Michigan libraries, available to patrons upon request via statewide delivery to their local library; and

MeL Digital Collection — Links to digitized local Michigan historical resources such as the *Making of Modern Michigan* site (http://mmm.lib.msu.edu), a statewide digitization project administered by Michigan State University and funded by the Institute for Museum and Library Services.

In FY 2005, LSTA funds were used to support the following MeL project components, enhancements and developments:

- MeLCat, an innovative statewide library catalog, delivery service and resource-sharing network, features the combined collections of participating libraries, with 5.98 million items as of 2005. Library users are able to easily identify and request convenient, quick delivery of materials from Michigan's libraries through their own library's catalog. Member libraries are from every area of the state, making it a true statewide service;
- Ongoing addition of new member libraries for the MeLCat statewide catalog. At the end of 2005, 54 libraries were active members, including public, academic, school and special libraries. Michigan is unusual in that all library types are included. Additional libraries are slated for inclusion in MeLCat through 2006 and onward;
- Continued funding for ongoing MeL training, technical support and commercial database access for all Michigan residents;
- Completion of the implementation for the MeL Gateway federated search engine to provide availability of cross searching MeL resources; and
- Continued collection development of MeL Internet to increase quality of the collection and improve the Michigan-centric focus. Local school, college and public libraries stretch and leverage their materials budgets by ready access to appropriate, quality free resources on MeL Internet.

Quality Services Advisory Council (QSAC)

The Library of Michigan has used LSTA funding to assist QSAC in the development of the Quality Measures Audit Checklist, which provides quality guidelines for Michigan's public library services. The measures are divided into three levels of service — essential, enhanced and excellent. Some measures are considered "core" or necessary for optimum service, while others are considered "elective" measures that encourage enhanced services. Quality measures are a benchmark or an industry standard that assist libraries in improving services and educating stakeholders. The measures show communities what libraries have achieved with current funding, and what is possible if funding were increased. The measures dovetail with strategic planning, serving as examples of where and how libraries can improve, regardless or size or funding level.

QSAC for Public Libraries – Seventy-two public libraries (19 percent) in the state, have qualified for the essential level since the measures were released on July 19, 2004, representing a variety of sizes and geographic locations. Eighty more libraries are in the process of obtaining their essential qualification, meaning 40 percent of Michigan public libraries will have attained this goal.

The enhanced level, the second of three QSAC levels available, went live Dec. 1, 2004, and four libraries have qualified. Fifty libraries are in progress for the enhanced level. Excellent, the third and final QSAC level, went live in March 2005. Two libraries have qualified and 16 more are already working toward this final benchmark.

Libraries can receive assistance and work together through the listserv for QSAC, which currently has 128 members. The QSAC Web site, http://www.michigan.gov/qsac, has QSAC information for the public and for libraries. The Superiorland Library Cooperative also hosts a Web site, http://www.uproc.lib.mi.us/slc/qsacindex.html, which contains links to information helpful to libraries working toward their QSAC certifications.

Training is an important component of QSAC, providing library directors and staff members the opportunity to learn firsthand how these measures can help improve services, as well as how to qualify. In 2005, the QSAC coordinator conducted 11 workshops around the state, with nearly half the participant libraries qualifying afterward.

"QSAC has been instrumental in our quest for adequate funding and a new building…Thank you to all those who worked so hard on the measures!"

Debra Green, Director
Fred C. Fisher Library, Belleville, March 2006

QSAC for Library Cooperatives – The success of the Quality Services Audit Checklist for public libraries inspired interest in a similar system for library cooperative services. Library cooperative directors requested such a project, and the QSAC for Co-ops Advisory Committee began working early in 2004 and completed results were put into practice in September 2005.

The final product included 85 measures in five categories: advocacy, administration, governance, services and technology. Out of 12 cooperatives, one has reached excellent-level certification, one has reached enhanced, and one has already achieved the essential level.

Continuing Education Fund

Anticipating the loss of as many as 60 percent of the current cohort of professional librarians by 2019, the Library of Michigan offers a continuing-education tuition-reimbursement program to current full-time employees who are enrolled in a nationally accredited graduate library program. LSTA funds are used to support this project, which is designed to help recruit a new generation of individuals preparing for professional careers in libraries.

Collaborative Summer Reading and Youth Services Programming

Using LSTA funds, the Library of Michigan participates in a multi-state consortium that provides all Michigan public libraries with access to a high-quality summer reading program, including a plethora of associated materials, themes, ready-made programs and professional quality graphics. Summer reading programs have been shown to develop children's interest in reading, encouraging and motivating them to improve their reading skills. Michigan's participation in this program allows local libraries to leverage their funds and provide greater access to programming for children.

Training for Library Services to the Underserved:

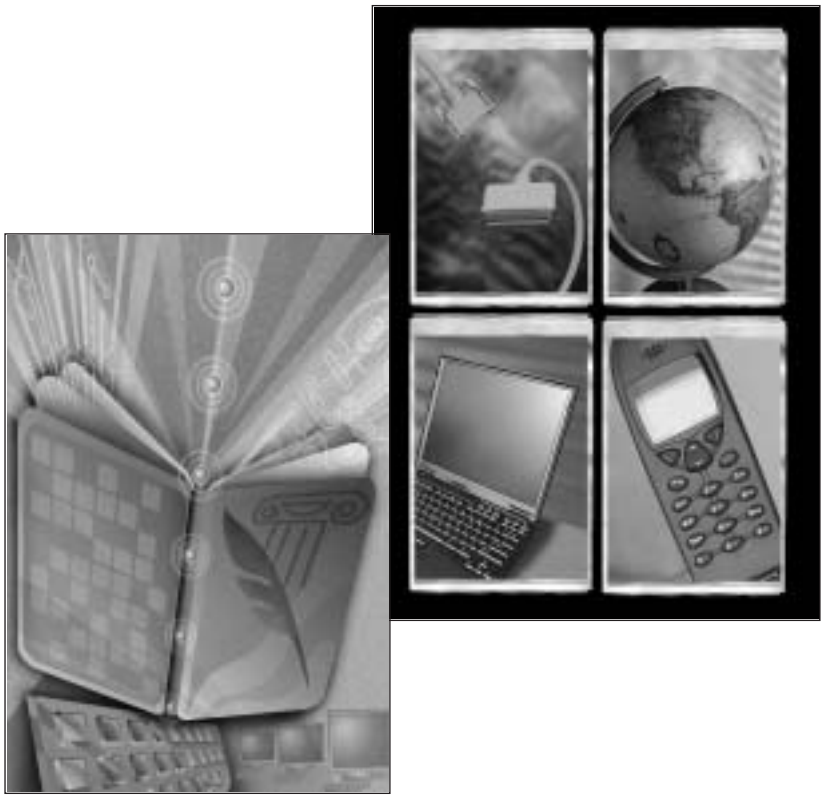
Rural Areas, Children and Youth

The Library of Michigan uses LSTA funding to support continuing education in new techniques and innovative programming for librarians throughout the state. Working with the Michigan Library Association, the Library provides access to a range of materials and quality speakers to assist Michigan libraries in improving services and outreach in rural areas, to children and teens and to the disabled. In 2005, training opportunities included:

• The biennial Loleta Fyan Rural Libraries Conference is the premier event for Michigan small and rural public library staff. The conference sessions, speakers and special events center on the specific needs and interests of public libraries serving communities of up to 12,000 residents. More than 350 attendees participated in the 2005 conference.

• The Spring Institute Conference with speaker Robert Sabuda focused on providing creative children's services. The conference introduced the most current theories, methods and trends in developing reading and outreach programs for children of all abilities.

• The Teen Services workshops with speaker Patrick Jones focused on providing powerful youth services. Librarians learned techniques on conducting effective outreach, creating community relationships and designing appropriate, quality programming for youth.



Local Innovation, Statewide Impact

2004 LSTA Subgrant Projects

Local area funding in 2004 was awarded in two funding areas:

- Collaboration and Partnership
- MeLCat Preparedness

The Collaboration and Partnership funding area assisted Michigan libraries in pioneering innovative services with collaborative partners and in sharing the knowledge learned from these projects with other libraries. Resource-sharing projects were encouraged. Grants in this area could focus on services to children and youth, improving literacy, digitization of historic materials or other collaborative projects that brought services to underserved populations or resources to a broader audience.

The MeLCat Preparedness funding area assisted Michigan libraries' participation in the statewide MeLCat resource-sharing system. MeLCat is a component of the Michigan eLibrary that provides all Michigan residents with access to information they need, when and where they need it. The MeLCat portion of this project is a shared statewide library catalog with a delivery system for items not available electronically. Grants in this area funded upgrades to or new participation in integrated library systems (ILS) that are able to participate in the MelCat system.

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS BY COMMUNITY

Adrian - Lenawee Intermediate School District (District 7) $25,000
LISD Migration to Horizon Project

Lenawee Intermediate School District (LISD) migrated to a Dynix Horizon automation service, a MeLCat-compliant, shared integrated library system for the LISD and eight local school districts in Lenawee County. This allows the schools to share materials, increasing the instructional resources available to K-12 students and teachers. The school districts have sustained funding by cost sharing with local districts after the grant period. The project administrator praised "the collaboration and willingness of staff to embrace new learning and share their findings that made the project a success."

Alpena - Northland Library Cooperative (District 1) $75,000
Sharing the Bytes

The goal of this project was to provide the best possible patron services by increasing and providing direct, equitable access to resources for library users in Northern Michigan. The Alanson Area Public Library, the Boyne District Library and the Crooked Tree District Library joined a Web-based, MeLCat-compliant, shared integrated library system. This has allowed greater staff efficiencies and access to far more materials, resulting in a 331-percent increase in borrowing of materials. A patron's comments sum up the impact of the Alanson Area Public Library having access to nearly 300,000 more items: "I am like a kid in a candy store. For the first time in my life, I have access to all the books I can read."

Bay City - Bay County Library System (District 5) $19,338
Making the Connection

The Bay County Library System developed a distance-education program with videoconference capabilities and established a series of programs to target currently underserved groups. The library worked with Saginaw Valley State University and the Bay-Arenac Intermediate School District on the technical and programming aspects of the project. The first programs were five virtual field trips. Children were able to "visit" the Coral Reef exhibit and shark exhibit at the Indianapolis Zoo, learn about whales at the California Ocean Institute, have a lesson about the Ice Age at the Cranbrook Institute in Bloomfield Hills and watch an open-heart surgery at a hospital in Illinois.

Cadillac - Mid-Michigan Library League (District 2) $79,715
MeLCat-Compliant Shared ILS

The Mid-Michigan Library League implemented a Web-based, MeLCat-compliant, shared integrated library system for 12 member public libraries, with 20 locations. The largely rural population can now identify and request titles from libraries in five Michigan cooperatives. Borrowing from other libraries has increased from 3 percent at one library to 162 percent at another. The collaboration has also assured a community of common interest and support for the system among the participating libraries. Larger libraries have been able to share expertise with smaller libraries in a collaboration that has improved service throughout the region.

Clarkston - Independence Township Library (District 8) $10,000
Oakland County Historical Connections

Oakland County Historical Connections, a consortium of eight libraries, genealogical and historical societies, has emerged from this project. The consortium is identifying and preserving pre-1930s documents pertaining to the Oakland County area to provide needed resources to researchers, historians, genealogists and librarians. A shared system and standards have been developed and digitized materials with descriptive information are being added to a database that will be publicly available.

Detroit - Lewis College of Business (District 14) $24,950
Shared ILS

The Lewis College of Business was able to join an established integrated library system through this project. The quantity and quality of information available to all college users – faculty, staff, students and the community – have exponentially increased via participation in the Detroit Area Library Network (DALNET). Automation has also improved the effectiveness and efficiency of library and college staff.

East Tawas - Iosco-Arenac District Library (District 1) $25,000
Automating the Iosco-Arenac District Library Circulation System

All eight branches of the Iosco-Arenac District are now part of the Valley Library Consortium catalog, allowing users to view the library catalog online and use materials from all member libraries. Borrowing of materials from other libraries has increased 66 percent since the implementation of the new system. The boost in quality service and materials through the new technology provided by the grant funds also convinced area voters to pass a 10-year millage for continued library services.

Iosco-Arenac District Library

Flint - Flint Public Library (District 5) $10,000
Community Historical Collections: Preparing for Digital Preservation and Access

The year 2005 marked the city of Flint's 150th anniversary. Several libraries, museums and other cultural organizations hold collections of historical documents and photographs that chronicle Flint's history. The project developed an infrastructure to digitize important and often irreplaceable artifacts of local history for the dual purposes of preserving the information before the originals deteriorate and providing increased public access. The system is intended to integrate seamlessly into the statewide MeL portal.

Flint - Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative (District 5) $6,905
The Braille Connection

The cooperative's Genesee District Library Talking Book Center and the Visually Impaired Center of Flint established the Braille Connection service to meet the need for the translation of printed material into Braille. Previously, materials would be shipped out of the area or even out of state. Now, documents, catalogs, signs, business cards and personal items may be translated into Braille for agencies, libraries and patrons in the service area, allowing greater independence and access to resources to area residents who are visually impaired.

Flint & Lapeer County - Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative
The Lapeer Connection (District 5) $35,000

The Lapeer Connection has brought four of the five public libraries in Lapeer County together in a shared integrated library system, allowing for full participation in the MeLCat project. Lapeer County residents now have access via the Internet to 90 percent of the library collections in the county. Dryden Township Library had an increase of 60 percent in borrowing from other libraries in the first few months. One library staff member commented that "the cost of the new system is considerably less than the former system and yet provides greater service. This has been a definite win-win situation for the Lapeer District Library."

Manchester - Manchester District Library (District 7) $14,889
Available to All: 137 Years of Small Town Michigan History

The Manchester District Library has digitized an extended historical period of the Manchester Enterprise. The newspaper was previously available only in microfilm (1867-1996) and in paper (1996-2003). The digital images allow long-term preservation of the valuable historical resource and free, easily available access to researchers and students. The digitized images will be made available via the Making of Modern Michigan site at Michigan State University. The project will continue to add value to the resource through future indexing of the images.

Marquette - Superiorland Library Cooperative (District 1) $116,843
Upper Peninsula Libraries Together: The Next Generation

The Superiorland and Hiawathaland Library Cooperatives' project brought a shared, integrated library system (ILS) to more than 62 libraries in the area. The Upper Peninsula libraries can now share an ILS that provides efficient and economical access to regional resources for people served by the peninsula's diverse small, rural libraries. At project completion, borrowing of materials from other libraries had increased by 46 percent from 2003 to 2004 and by 36 percent from 2004 to 2005. A staffer at Forsyth Township Library in Gwinn demonstrated the importance of the resource-sharing part of the new system: "Our library is located in an isolated rural area … interlibrary loan is so very essential because it 'expands our library walls,' which is extremely important due to a recent significant decrease in our library revenue of almost 20 percent." As of July 2005, 38 percent of the Upper Peninsula population has a library card in the new system.

Mount Pleasant - Chippewa River District Library (District 4) $50,000
I C More Catalog Project

I C More empowered local residents by giving them access to materials from participating libraries in Isabella and Clare counties, and it will eventually allow access the entire state's resources through MeLCat. The grant expanded the Chippewa River District Library's current shared integrated library system (ILS) by adding the Pere Marquette District Library in Clare and the Mount Pleasant High School Media Center. The project has shown residents that the libraries are technology-oriented, active in collaborations and seeking ways to maximize their funding. The improvements have resulted in support for further library funding. The Pere Marquette District Library's circulation has increased 350 percent since the completion of the grant.

Muskegon - Hackley Memorial Library (District 2) $6,908
Muskegon Images

The Hackley Memorial Library and the Muskegon County Museum collaborated to both preserve and improve access to historic photographs, maps, documents and objects. Digitized images were created to showcase the Muskegon maritime industry and West Michigan economic development from lumbering through 20th-century industrialization. Both the images and the descriptive information are provided to researchers and students on the library Web site.

Onaway - Onaway Area Community Schools Library (District 1) $24,000
The LibLink Project

Onaway's scattered, rural population needed improved library and Internet services, but many in the area had limited access and resources. The Onaway Area School Library and the Presque Isle District Library collaborated to expand educational activities and Internet access for patrons. The LibLink Project provided computer access and tailored training to patrons in the public library and to K-12 students at the school. The school was also able to expand the library hours, which helped provide support for a "Before and After School" grant.

Saginaw - Public Libraries of Saginaw (District 5) $24,484
Power Up Your Reading

The Public Libraries of Saginaw in collaboration with Saginaw and Carrollton school districts, Work First, local churches and other community groups established the Literacy Council of Saginaw County. The council focused new resources on adults with low reading levels. During the grant period, the council trained tutors, provided literacy materials and ran a promotional campaign to encourage individuals and families to "Power Up Your Reading." Reading Power materials are now available in all libraries for program participants and so far 172 people have used the program to improve their literacy skills.

Saginaw - White Pine Library Cooperative (District 5) $74,897
Enhancing Regional Resources Sharing

Six libraries – the Bad Axe Public Library, the Wickson Library, the Rawson Memorial Library, the Caro Area District Library, the Pigeon District Library and the Bullard Sanford Memorial Library – now use a new regional integrated library system (ILS) as a result of this project and will be able to join the statewide catalog. The improved ILS has decreased staff workload while greatly increasing materials available to the public. A patron said via e-mail: "An educated population brings jobs and opportunities to an area. Rawson Memorial Library is providing tools via technology to make this happen."

Summary of LSTA Subgrants Awarded in Fiscal Year 2004, by Funding Area

Collaboration and Partnership

Bay County Library System	$19,338
Flint Public Library	$10,000
Hackley Public Library	$6,908
Independence Township Library	$10,000
Manchester District Library	$14,889
Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative	$6,905
Onaway Area Community Schools Library	$24,000
Public Libraries of Saginaw	$24,484
Funding Area Total	***$116,440***

MeLCat Preparedness: ***Cooperatives Assisting Libraries***

Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative	$35,000
Mid-Michigan Library League	$79,715
Northland Library Cooperative	$75,000
Superiorland Library Cooperative	$116,843
White Pine Library Cooperative	$74,897
Funding Area Total	***$381,455***

MeLCat Preparedness: ***New Participation in Shared ILS by Non-Automated Library***

Iosco-Arenac District Library	$25,000
Lewis College of Business, Richard Harris Library	$24,950
Funding Area Total	***$49,950***

MeLCat Preparedness: ***Upgrade or Migration to MeLCat Compliant ILS***

Chippewa River District Library System	$50,000
Lenawee Intermediate School District	$25,000
Funding Area Total	***$75,000***

Summary of LSTA Subgrants Awarded in Fiscal Year 2004, by Legislative District

District 1	
Iosco-Arenac District Library	$25,000
Northland Library Cooperative	$75,000
Onaway Area Community Schools Library	$24,000
Superiorland Library Cooperative	$116,843
District 2	
Hackley Public Library	$6,908
Mid-Michigan Library League	$79,715
District 4	
Chippewa River District Library System	$50,000
District 5	
Bay County Library System	$19,338
Flint Public Library	$10,000
Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative	$6,905
Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative	$35,000
Public Libraries of Saginaw	$24,484
White Pine Library Cooperative	$74,897
District 7	
Lenawee Intermediate School District	$25,000
Manchester District Library	$14,889
District 8	
Independence Township Library	$10,000
District 14	
Lewis College of Business, Richard Harris Library	$24,950

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